THE VETERINARY RECORD

A Weekly Journal for the Profession.

No. 519. JUNE 18, 1898. Vol. X.

Members Resident Abroad.

Our profession is provided with as wide and liberal an arrangement for the election of its governing body as any Corporation in the world. Every member has a vote and every member is eligible for election. To facilitate the use of the vote every member is supplied with a voting paper which he has only to fill up and return to the Secretary. Members resident abroad have a voting paper sent them but, as a correspondent points out, very little assistance is given either by the College or by candidates for election which will help or guide the member in giving his vote. These "foreign" voting papers have to be sent early---most of them before the list of candidates can be obtained. It is not much use to enclose a list of retiring members of Council because some may not be seeking re-election, and it is even a debatable point whether the extra chance given by such a list is quite fair to new candidates.

If candidates would see that their nomination was made by April 1st, and if they would honour the electors by an early statement of their views the foreign voters would be able to make their selection and use their vote.

Docking.

The letters on this subject in our correspondence column should be read with attention. Mr. Parlane Walker has a balance of £36 in hand from the Halifax Fund which he offers to pay over to any Society willing to hold it for use in a future action. We should think the money had better remain with Mr. Walker – if he would be good enough to continue its trustee—so that at any emergency he might be able to act. The National Veterinary Defence Society we should imagine would hardly care to accept the money if it were to be kept for a special purpose, and their rules would forbid any expenditure for the defence of persons not members of the veterinary profession. It may be very desirable to assist the defence of some non-professional "docker." We must not lose sight of the fact that an undefended or badly defended case in the Court of Appeal will render practically impossible any successful action afterwards. When it is once decided that the act of "docking" is cruelty, it will be useless to try and distinguish between the operation performed by a veterinarian and the operation performed by a skilful layman.

Mr. Leeney takes an arguable position concerning docking, but not an altogether definite one. He objects to "indiscriminate docking" and he asks "Would it not be far better for us if the R.S.P.C.A. did get a conviction upheld in the High Court for an operation *needlessly* performed, than that we should be in constant fear of getting wrong with the law." The difficulty is that every case would then have to be justified by showing that it was needful. To this one might not strongly object if we could with prudence trust the R.S.P.C.A. to put a case impartially. Of course, as sensible people, if they go to the High Court, they will make their case as wide and comprehensive as possible. The judges may be trusted to give a right decision, but it will be right according to the evidence presented before them. What is necessary is that veterinary surgeons should be ready to protect their own interests and not allow the R.S.P.C.A. to snatch a judgment on a case which presents evidence only on one side.

We do not intend now to argue the case for or against docking. Between Mr. Leeney and ourselves there is much in common, but we think he errs in classing docking with "nicking and cropping." He also appears to think that horses and colts should not be docked "before they have proved the need." This we suppose is after they have kicked a trap to pieces and killed the driver. One might as well argue that castration should not be performed until some untoward results had "proved the need." The supporters of docking hold that the operation is to prevent and not to cure an accident. Take the case of a dealer or job master who has a new lot of twenty horses come into his stable. All are harness horses, some may if left *in naturalibus* endanger the lives of human beings, *ergo*—the dealer has the whole lot docked. This is "indiscriminate" docking from one point of view; it is a justifiable business action from another. There is always some risk from docking, and naturally a buyer prefers to avoid that by buying docked horses. The dealer takes that risk, not for fashion's sake but for obvious business reasons.

It won't do to trust the R.S.P.C.A. in an appeal case. We have too much interest in the matter not to insist upon a fair trial and the presentation of all the evidence we possess. As veterinarians we must be ready to act, and anyone hearing of a docking case being brought before a court of first instance should at once make public his knowledge. If the R.S.P.C.A. meant to fight fair they would have gone to appeal over the Halifax case. We don't blame them for the strategical move which evaded that case, but we hope that practitioners will not allow themselves to be caught napping whilst a non-professional operator is made the victim of a decision which will effectually tie their hands.

THE CAUSES OF COLIC.

By Vet.-Lieut. E. E. Martin, A.V.D.,
Barrackpore, India.

In a short but very interesting article under the title of "A Cause of Colic" in *The Veterinary Record* for the 26th February, 1898, Veterinary-Major Smith calls attention to the practical absence of colic in the Remount Depôt, of which he has veterinary charge. After giving a few statistics to illustrate this, he puts the question, "What is the explanation of this remarkable immunity?"

I have had veterinary charge of the Remount Depôt, Calcutta, for two seasons, and my experience is exactly the same as Major Smith's. I may say that the depot of which I speak is the landing and purchasing depot for Australian horses for the service, and is only open during the purchasing season. This season lasts about four months of the cold weather, namely November, December, January, and February. I will, however, avoid unnecessary details and state that during that period I have the veterinary care of, on an average, 1000 horses belonging either to the Government or the shipper who has brought them for purchase by Government. During these two seasons there has not been a fatal case arising from any digestive trouble, and the two or three cases of colic that have occurred have yielded to treatment immediately.

I may here quote an extract from my annual report on the working of the depot last year:—"Very few cases of colic have occurred, and none of these were serious."

This confirmation of Major Smith's observation, coming as it does with respect to horses bred on the other side of the globe, renders doubly interesting his question: What is the explanation of this remarkable immunity? He then goes on to say "The one I offer is that the horses do no work. . . . . accordingly we must look to work in some form or other as the chief cause of colic and volvulus."

Now in this explanation I do not consider Major Smith has quite hit the right nail on the head. Of course there is little doubt that we must look to work as a great predisposing cause of colic, for if we glance at a list of the ordinary accepted causes of colic as laid down in most text book it will be seen that at least 50 per cent. of those causes could only possibly occur in horses that are doing work. As instances of these take the following—over-exhaustion, irregular feeding and watering, exposure to cold and wet when heated, drinking cold water when sweating profusely, and in fact all those circumstances that bring about a chill. In an editorial on this subject in the same number, the following occurs "that work plays a great part in determining an attack of colic is well known. . . . . The question arises how does work act as an exciting cause."

In my opinion we need not look upon work as an exciting cause under ordinary circumstances. As was pointed out in the editorial just quoted the immediate effect of work is to increase the circulation and also the peristaltic action of the bowels, and in a horse with aneurism or any obstruction in the bowels, or in other words in a horse previously diseased in any way, work might then become the exciting cause.

What then is the explanation of the immunity from colic that both our depots enjoy? My explanation is that it is simply a matter of diet. The horses in a Remount Depot do not work, and therefore they receive an appropriate, soft, easily digested and laxative diet. Major Smith says "Their system of stable management is the same as that existing throughout the Army," but I do not suppose that he includes feeding in stable management. I do not know what diet his horses get, but I presume it differs considerably from that of the horses of artillery and cavalry in constant hard word.

The majority of the horses in my care get no exercise at all as they are mostly unbroken and unhandled, so they simply stand all day long in their boxes until they go to the up country reserve depots. Their ration is as follows:

Bran	6 lbs.
Oats	2 ,,
Gram	2 ,,
Linseed cake	1 ,,
Rice straw chaff	6 ,,

This diet not only keeps them in good health, but I find it almost invariably puts flesh on.

If I remember rightly the ration of the horses of a tramway company in England which I used to attend before entering the service, consisted of 20 lbs. of grain, made up of oats, barley, maize, beans and bran—I forget the exact proportions—and 10 lbs. of straw, hay, and chaff.

Compare this diet with that of the depot remounts and the reason of the immunity from digestive troubles of the latter will be evident.

THANKS TO ELECTORS R.C.V.S.

To the Fellows and Members of
The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Gentlemen,

For the kind expression of confidence conveyed in your again electing me to the Council, I wish to return you my heartfelt thanks, and trust that in the performance of my duties I may prove not altogether unworthy of the position to which you have been pleased to call me.—Your obedient servant,

Jno. A. W. Dollar.

56 New Bond Street, W.

Dear Sir,

Permit me, through the medium of *The Record*, to express my grateful thanks to those members of the R.C.V.S. who gave me their support and votes at the recent election. It will be my aim to serve the profession to the best of my ability in the future as in the past.—Yours faithfully,

Joseph Abson.

Norfolk Street, Sheffield,
June 9th, 1898.

VETERINARY SOCIETIES.

CENTRAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A general meeting was held on Thursday night, the 2nd inst., at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 10, Red Lion Square, Holborn, Mr. J. A. W. Dollar, the president, occupying the chair. There were also present thirty-five fellows of the Society, and two visitors.

The minutes of the preceding meeting being incomplete, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Hurndall, seconded by Mr. Mulvey, that their confirmation be deferred to the July meeting.

Communications stating inability to attend had, it was reported by Mr. F. C. Mahon, hon. secretary, been received from Mr. W. F. Barrett, F.R.C.V.S., barrister-at-law, who had undertaken to read a paper on "The sale of horses considered from a legal aspect," but he was professionally detained at Huntingdon, being one of the counsel engaged in the St. Neots poisoning case; from Mr. R. Moore and Mr. Prudames.

Election and Nomination.

Mr. W. S. Mulvey, 67, Lower Sloane Street, S.W., was unanimously elected a fellow.

Mr. W. H. Flook, of Putney Hill, S.W., was duly nominated for election.

Fractured Vertebræ.

The Chairman explained that Vet.-Major J. Philips had brought with him an interesting pathological specimen, and that in the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. F. Barrett, Prof. Macqueen had promised to introduce a subject for discussion afterwards.

The subject was a black mare, seven years of age, belonging to the Army Service Corps, at Woolwich. The injury evidently occurred when the mare was in draught, descending a steep hill on the 7th of March last.

She was brought to the Infirmary exceeding lame on both hind legs, but much more so on the off leg. An endeavour was made to place the patient in slings, but without success. It was therefore well bedded down and allowed to rest. A decided though gradual improvement took place until the 28th of the same month, when the lameness became excessive. The patient evinced great pain when the hand was placed on the hip (antero inferior process of the ilium). No fracture or other lesion, however, on examination per rectum, was detected.

On the 8th April, the case getting worse instead of better, the mare was destroyed, and a careful post-mortem examination made. The only lesion found was the fracture now placed before you for your inspection. It may be added that the bones, with others, were placed in a copper and, unfortunately, subjected to a too prolonged process of boiling.

In reply to Mr. Hurndall, Major Philips said in his idea there was a possibility of a partial union of the bones, and that the extra boiling had dispersed the material.

In reply to Mr. Mulvey:—The animal was injured on the 7th of March and destroyed on the 8th of April.

In reply to Mr. Walpole:—The age of the mare was seven years.

Answering Mr. Porch:—What he had expected to find was fracture of the neck of the pelvis, but he could not detect this in the examination of the rectum. There was no paralysis in the case.

Mr. Rowe said he was of opinion that union had never really taken place.

Mr. Singleton: The time which elapsed from the accident to the day of the boiling excludes the idea of the deposit having been affected by the boiling. It was submitted to the boiling process after a month.

Mr. Hurndall said he had not reached any conclusion as to any definite time wherein material might be thrown out and ultimately become of an osseous character. He did not think a month could be considered sufficiently long to negative the idea that the material thrown out might have admitted of subjection to the influence of high boiling pressure.

Mr. Singleton: I think, taking it as probable that the complete union would have been effected in six months, and that the first steps in the union would have been of a very cartilaginous, soft nature, all the more easily affected by boiling, I think the osseous deposit begins to form at the end of the month.

Mr. Walpole thought their thanks were due to Major Philips for bringing this interesting specimen under their notice, although they were obscure as to the nature of the complaint from which the animal suffered. He moved a vote of thanks to the Major.

Mr. Hurndall seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTAIN DEFECTS IN HORSES EXAMINED FOR SOUNDNESS.

By Professor Macqueen.

Professor Macqueen, after expressing regret that Mr. Barrett was unable to fulfil his engagement to read a paper on that occasion (although they rejoiced in his professional progress, and the fact that he was retained in the St. Neots poisoning case), said he had had no opportunity of preparing an essay since being asked to fill the breach caused by Mr. Barrett's absence. Hence he asked the indulgence of the meeting. The professor continued: Mr. Barrett was to have dealt with the subject of "The sale of horses considered from a legal aspect," and it was my intention to have followed his paper with another concerning "Certain defects in horses examined for soundness." To-night I propose directing my remarks to this theme. I have no desire to express definite opinions—my object is to try to elicit from the members round the table their experience of such defects. I do not propose to consider the question from a legal standpoint or in close connection with soundness, but I desire to evoke the opinion of the members as far as may be possible, as to the practical importance, or wearable importance if you like, of the defects to which I shall refer. Without further preface I will allude to a few defects of the eyes.

The Eyes.

What is the importance of corneal opacities? Doubtless the importance varies with the position, size, and density of the opacity and with the class of horse. Opacities in the form of delicate lines, dots or specks, sufficient to cause shying, were difficult to see, but when they occur in hunting and other horses used for saddle work they are often responsible for shying or other inconvenient behaviour. At the same time corneal opacity may be of little importance. My own impression is that corneal opacity in draught horses should not be considered of much importance. The defect might be mentioned, perhaps it ought to be mentioned, but the estimate should be low. On the other hand, in horses of a high class—hunters and hacks especially—and to some extent in carriage horses, opacities of the cornea are of considerable importance.

Then with regard to large *corpora nigra*. I know it has been disputed whether large *corpora* interfere with vision. Very seldom have I been able to satisfy myself that those large pigment masses affect the sight, and for some time I have treated large *corpora* very lightly, but

I am prepared, having regard to the class of animal, to consider this defect as of some importance.

Recently I saw a shying horse in which, after careful and repeated examination, the only defect discoverable was a large double mass of pigment hanging from the upper margin of the pupil. The pigment divided the opening of the pupil into three parts and I have no doubt that in this case the sight was imperfect.

With opacity of the lens, or cataracts, I have little difficulty. A cataract of any size is a defect of more or less importance. But the defect of the lens to which I desire to draw your attention is not specifically alluded to, so far as I know, in veterinary text books. In aged horses free of discoverable cataract, examination by the naked eye aided by a hat or sleeve will fail to reveal anything distinctly wrong in the lens. In some the lens may appear dim, in others milky or opaque, but no definite opacity or cataract will be seen. If you apply the catoptric test to such eyes you will find in the great majority of cases some blurring, duplication, reduction, or other other imperfection of one or two images of the flame. The anterior or corneal image is generally perfect, but the posterior and middle images may be very indistinct. The posterior image may be reduced to a pin's head in size. In my experience this condition of lens often occurs in old hunting and hack horses, and also in carriage horses. It is not uncommon in horses submitted for opinion as to the cause of shying. I should like to hear your views as to what importance ought to be attached to this condition of the lens. Such horses cannot be rejected for cataract if you must specify the defect. One may hold in one's own mind that the lens is defective and so describe it in the certificate; but should an explanation of what is actually wrong with the horse's sight be asked for, what may one say? I have satisfied myself that such horses do not always see perfectly, and I am convinced that they sometimes pass muster as sound in eyes. But this should not cause surprise, for anyone who restricts his examination of aged horses to the naked eye test must frequently pass animals with faulty lenses without being aware of the defect. I cannot go into the question of suggesting a remedy or of working out the relations of blurred images to sound eyes, but I should like to hear your opinions. These are three points in connection with examination of the eyes well worth discussion: The importance of (1) corneal opacity, (2) large *corpora nigra*, and (3) defective lenses not showing distinct cataract.

Marks on Poll and Withers.

Next I wish to bring to your notice the occurrence of scars and white marks on the horse's poll, withers and collar seat. My opinion of the importance of such scars is rather low. A horse may have been affected with poll-evil or with fistulous withers, and the mere existence of a bald patch, scar, or white spot is to me of little or no importance so long as the horse does not show any sign of flinching when the part is manipulated. I may be wrong; not being in general practice I have not the opportunities which practitioners have of following up horses that exhibit these marks, but I have little or no hesitation in minimising their importance while mentioning their existence.

Swellings at the Knee.

Passing lower I come to what may be called thecal swellings or distension of the extensor tendon sheaths above and at the knee. In cart horses, and sometimes in hunters, you will find a thecal swelling, sometimes more than one, somewhere on the knee or above the knee. Now what is the importance of such defect? My own custom (I do not make it a rule, for each case must be decided upon its merits) is to mention in the certificate the existence of thecal swelling and to estimate, as far as my judgment will allow, the importance of that swelling according to the class of work the horse is expected to do. Thecal swelling in hunters, encroaching or extending to the knee, may be a very serious defect. A thecal swelling, extending over the knee and rendering the joint more or less stiff during action and interfering with the horse lying down, is rather an important defect in the cart horse. I have had several cases of thecal swelling in front of the knee increasing at work and interfering materially with the usefulness of the cart horse. Gentlemen, what is your experience of thecal swellings?

Similar swellings in connection with the flexor tendons at the back of the knee are very important, but as horses affected with distension of the carpal sheath are not often submitted to examination for soundness, I think I may pass that point.

Distension of the sheath of the flexor tendons below the knee is not an uncommon condition in cart horses, and it sometimes occurs in horses of a lighter class and a higher price. I always regard such swelling with very great suspicion, and I must say I hesitate and take a long time to make up my mind when dealing with a high-priced horse with thecal swelling below the knee. Here I may say a word or two on thickened tendons. I do not refer to ordinary extensive thickening of the flexor tendons, but to a small swelling which occurs a few inches below the knee where the check ligament joins the perforans tendon. In most instances this limited thickening occurs in hunters. Horses thus affected may hunt but they go lame when trotted slowly on hard ground. I consider—at least this is my practice—that when the swelling is restricted to a small area, when the horse does not flinch on manipulation and trots fairly well on stones, that such horse, although technically unsound, may be risked. That is to say I regard limited thickening of the tendon, exhibiting the symptoms mentioned, as not of such importance as to prevent the animal's use in hunting.

Windgalls.

Windgalls are of two kinds, and I fear the distinctinction is not always carefully drawn. Windgalls of the fetlock—fore or hind—are connected either with the joint or with the flexor sheath, and it is rather important to distinguish articular windgall from tendinous windgall. Articular windgall seldom causes inconvenience until the horse attains a great age or until the defect assumes the condition of a large unyielding swelling, which may interfere with the action of the fetlock joint. This is not so, however, in my experience of windgalls connected with the flexor sheath. Windgalls which are compressible and removable by bandaging are not serious. But windgalls which are hard, unyielding, and incompressible cause stiffness and sometimes lameness. Such windgalls should always be mentioned with a certain amount of reservation. They may be satisfactorily disposed of in the certificate as indications of wear, but horses so affected seldom exhibit first-class action.

Blemished Knee.

With regard to blemished knee, I am aware that in law books blemished knee does not constitute unsoundness, but I should never pass a horse with blemished knee without mentioning the defect. I have a very low estimate of the importance of many cases of blemished knee. It is nothing to me how the blemished knee has been caused, whether in the stable or on the street. I hold that a veterinary surgeon should not accept the responsibility of saying nothing about the blemish. You may depend upon it that the defect will be discovered by some one very soon after the horse changes hands. As to the importance of blemished knee—and this is where, I think, the judgment and advice of the veterinary surgeon are useful. Knees may be blemished in many ways and the position of the scar varies considerably. In some instances the veterinary surgeon may

consider it necessary to make a special note or remark regarding the blemish. I speak strongly, perhaps, on blemished knee, and I rather fear that I do not run abreast with some practitioners on this point. Occasionally I have to examine horses that have been examined by other practitioners, and I may say that blemished knee does not often occur in the certificates of my friends. But frequently I refer to blemished knee as a mark of recognition. If average importance be attached to the blemish, if there be a distinct scar on each knee, indicating that the animal sustained the injury by coming down, then blemished knee should occupy a place with the defects– estimate its importance as you may.

Splints.

Now as to splints. These defects, I think, are often wrongly appreciated. It is the custom, I believe—though I do not know how it originated—with some practitioners to condemn horses for splints, and with many other veterinary surgeons to pass horses with splints—the splints being mentioned as defects and the certificate qualified to that extent. At other times horses having splints are passed without any qualifying remark. While splints may be mentioned in the certificate I must say that I regard splints in horses free of lameness as of little importance. It is not the existent splint but the splint that is yet to form which is important. Frequently I pass horses with splints, informing the purchaser not to fear the splints that already exist but to be prepared for others yet to come. That is my view. Rarely have I been able to connect lameness with an old splint, but many very popular and influential practitioners believe that there is a kind of recrudescence of inflammatory action in an old splint. I believe that is possible if an old splint is struck. But in the case of the ordinary splint which has been in existence, say, two or three years, I maintain that a horse may go on for life and never show lameness from that particular splint. If a horse fall lame from splint, it is because the splint is in process of formation, and it is generally a new growth. There is another point on which I differ from practitioners and that is as to the position of splint. It is a common thing for a client to ask you, in the case of a horse with a splint, "Is it a badly placed splint." By this he means is it placed backwards near the tendons. Now, with very few exceptions, I do not believe the position of splint is of any importance. The exceptions I make are splints in connection with the articulation of the knee. These should not be called splints at all. And splints which occur behind the bone, under the suspensory ligament, splints which usually cannot be diagnosed without great difficulty and which cannot be reached by ordinary treatment. But the point I wish to insist particularly upon is the custom—which has gained ground in the profession—of making too much of splints already in existence. My practice is to minimise existing splints —assuming the horse is free of lameness—and to prepare the purchaser of a young horse for lameness arising from splints that may come by and by. A fully formed splint in a young horse is not of much consequence but it serves to indicate to me that the animal is likely to throw out another when put to hard work.

With regard to exostosis on the pastern, I very rarely see ringbone of the old-fashioned sort so well described by early writers ; but exostoses or splints, if you like, on the pastern are very common. If I had had longer time I could have brought specimens of exostosis of the pastern. I have no desire to discuss the importance of ringbone or exostoses involving a joint, but I should like to hear your views of non-articular growths on the pastern. Nodes, knots, or small exostoses occur most frequently on the sides of the pastern, and in cab horses there is another position where a troublesome growth often appears. This has been called the cab-horse disease. In London it is caused probably by a blow from a foot when turning a corner or when pulling up, and in some cases the fetlock is wrenched as well as struck. However caused it often gives rise to lameness, and if neglected I find that the exostosis increases and extends to such an extent that it may fairly be described as ringbone ; it encroaches upon the fetlock joint. What is the importance in practice of exostosis of the pastern ? Frequently I recommend the purchase of horses with "knots" on the pasterns, which I describe as enlarged. I do not call the defect ringbone. My advice is based upon experience that horses very seldom fall lame for any great length of time from simple exostosis of the pastern.

The Hips.

Regarding the hind limbs, what is the importance of unequal quarters, or the defect sometimes described as "down in the hip"? Assume that the horse has recovered from the effects of fracture and that the only defect discoverable is inequality of the hind quarters. I consider that unequal quarters, while constituting a defect of some importance in connection with market value, is of no importance as regards the practical usefulness of the animal. A horse with deformation of one quarter may be as useful and as likely to continue useful and for as long a time as one with normal quarters. The market value is lessened to a certain extent. This defect is occasionally passed without remark, and sometimes the inequality of the quarters is difficult to see.

The Hock.

As to defects of the hock. It surprises me how much less often now than formerly one hears of cases of bone spavin. In my experience this defect is seldom mentioned in certificates, yet there can be little doubt that bone spavin is of frequent occurrence. I cannot venture an explanation of the change in practice with regard to enlarged hocks, but it is probable that less attention is now paid to such cases. My view concerning bone spavin is very much like that already expressed in regard to splints. If a horse that is not lame shows fair hock action and uses the joints freely, I do not care very much whether he has bone-spavin or not. Everyone must have had experience of horses with indisputable bone spavin, which have worked free from lameness for many years. Here again I would say, assuming the horse is not lame, that it is the exostosis or spavin yet to form which causes mischief. Hocks may be odd, large, coarse, or irregular and yet wear well, indeed I might almost say that coarse hocks wear best. The hock which I do not like is one which cannot be rejected as unsound. It is severely clean, but very narrow, especially towards the shank. That is the hock which usually wears badly. I hope to elicit your opinions on this point and therefore ask you to make a special note of hocks.

Perhaps I should stop now as the time is up and you may be tired ?

The Chairman : Will it be convenient for Professor Macqueen to finish his address on a future occasion and to submit specimens.

Professor Macqueen : What I should prefer is to conclude to-night, condensing what I have yet to say as much as possible. I shall try to produce specimens at the next meeting.

The Chairman : Very well.

Professor Macqueen (continuing) : Occult spavin is a very serious disease, but as horses affected with this form of spavin are seldom submitted to examination for soundness I think I may pass on to bog spavin.

Bog spavin or distension of the capsule of the true hock joint may be acute or chronic. The acute form, in my experience, is usually confined to one hock, and in most cases is incurable. Owing to lameness the affected horse is not presentable for examination. But the

chronic form, sometimes called called "false bog spavin," is a comparatively harmless condition. Bog spavin occurs mostly in underbred horses and in horses with straight hocks. In stallions sometimes it may be attributed to the work of covering, and in other horses to wear aggravated or not by faulty conformation of the hock. I have very seldom seen a horse lame from "filled hocks" or simple chronic distension. What is your experience of such hocks; do they cause trouble?

Now as to thoroughpin. It is necessary I think in practice to make a distinction between thoroughpin in connection with the hock joint, and thoroughpin of the flexor sheath. Thoroughpin of the perforans sheath is common enough, and sometimes rather important. I often hesitate to pass for fast work a horse with tendinous thoroughpin of one hock, because occasionally at an interval more or less long after examination, I have found the horse affected with lameness, perhaps mechanical, but certainly arising from interference with the action of the hock. Articular thoroughpin is less serious, but there is a possibility of the swelling being injured in the stall or loose-box and proving very troublesome to treat.

With regard to curb, I do not intend to provoke discussion on what is curb? I, however, hold my own idea of its nature and incline to accept the tendinous theory of curb. In many cases where there is nothing wrong with tendon or ligament the defect is simply faulty formation of the back of the hock. I do not refer to curby or sickle hocks, which are sometimes free and occasionally not free of curb. I believe there is an impression that a curby-hocked horse is not likely to throw a curb, but only last Whit Monday I saw a curby-hocked horse with two large curbs. Is curb a serious defect? My opinion is that a small curb, that is one which is difficult to see, which may be overlooked and which cannot be found with facility is a curb of very little importance. The curb which I do not like to see, which I should not pass, and which I scarcely like to undertake to treat, is large and conspicuous. The swelling extends upwards and across the back of the hock, inclining generally to the inner side. That is a serious curb. But the small curb, the mere prominence at the back of the hock, if the horse remains free from lameness after the usual gallop for wind is a defect which, while it ought to be mentioned, is of very little importance.

The Foot.

Let me add a few words on the foot. What is the meaning of flat foot? I hold that many horses are born with feet that will wear flat in the sole. Is not flat sole a natural condition in some horses. You may call it a vicious conformation if you like, but so long as the soles of all four feet are like unto one another I would regard flat sole as of small importance. Indeed I may remind you that since the recent development of farriery and the very conservative treatment of the hoof now adopted in this country, it is difficult in many instances to make a satisfactory examination of the sole owing to the non-removal of loose horn at the time of shoeing. What good purpose can be served by loose masses of horn? In my judgment loose horn in its effect is almost comparable to gravelling, and frequently I find it necessary, in order to ascertain the condition of the hoof, to clear away those loose masses of horn.

What is the importance of a spreading foot? Is it possible for a horse to have feet too large? I contend that it is. A horse intended for fast work—even for slow fast work, if such a peculiar contradiction in terms can be permitted—a horse with big, clumsy feet is not a good wearer. I cannot reject a horse for having large feet, at the same time I take care to indicate the size of the feet, when excessive, as a recognition mark.

What is the importance of narrow heels? I refer to horses with blocky feet. Here I find myself at issue with those members of the profession who think that narrow heels always indicate disease. I deny it, and maintain that not more than one in ten narrow heeled horses is affected with disease. I have as much faith in the usefulness of narrow heels as in heels that are widely set. I am not quite sure, but I incline to think that in wearability widely set heels are less reliable than narrow heels. I should not preferably buy a horse with narrow feet, but if the animal were otherwise satisfactory I should not refuse it, and I should not advise an intending purchaser not to purchase because of the existence of narrow heels alone. When examining a horse with blocky feet I make distinct mention of the defect and try to estimate, as far as my judgment will permit, its imimportance in the particular case. But I do not go the length of saying that narrow heels indicate approaching navicular disease. I do not believe that. There is another danger which may cause nearly as much trouble as navicular disease, although it may not be so prominent. I refer to the occurrence of corns in deep-heeled horses which, if not eradicable, are difficult to remove, no matter how the horse may be shod. Here I would ask what is the importance in practice of corns? I do not pass horses with corns without mentioning the defect, irrespective of the size or depth of the lesion. It is unlikely that a horse with suppurating corn will be presented for examination, but other corns are not uncommon, and I regard their existence—especially in shallow and deep heeled horses—as of great importance. As to ribs or rings on the hoof; what importance should be attached to these? A horse with all four feet ribbed may be sound so long as the ribs are continuous from heel to heel, equally spaced, and not interlaced. The number is of no consequence. I regard such ribs as effects of change of diet, as a run at grass or a change in stable feeding. While ringed hoops may be suspected by horse buyers, I must say that so long as the rings or ribs correspond to the description just given they should be considered as of very little importance.

Sandcrack. In horses used for slow work superficial sandcracks may be dismissed with small consideration, but I always mention their existence. No one can say where a sandcrack may extend. I fear we do not exactly know enough about sandcracks, but I may take this opportunity, without breaking friendship, to allude to the very excellent advice on diseases of the feet given in a book recently issued, for which we are indebted to our worthy president, Mr. Dollar. The "Handbook of Horseshoeing" contains many suggestions as to the origin and treatment of hoof troubles, which are well worth reading.

Then as to sidebone. Sidebone in cart horses I regard as of little importance so long as the feet are of good shape. I constantly recommend the purchase of cart horses with sidebone, and so far have not had cause to regret that advice. My belief is that the importance which is often attached to sidebone in cart horses is built upon a wrong foundation altogether. Although sidebone is only of occasional occurrence in light horses I certainly should not advise the purchase of a high-priced carriage horse affected with sidebone. On the other hand I have no hesitation—apart altogether from the question of shoeing or the supposed connection between shoeing and ossified cartilages—in advising the purchase of horses affected with sidebone so long as the feet are good and the horse is intended for slow work. (Applause).

On the motion of Mr. Hurndall, seconded by Mr. Singleton, the discussion on Prof. Macqueen's address was deferred to the next meeting.

At the instance of Mr. Mulvey, thanks having been accorded to the Professor for his able and lucid address, thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

EXTRACTS AND NOTES.

PHARMACOLOGY: ITS AIMS AND METHODS

(Extract from a lecture).

By WILLIAM J. SMITH JEROME, M.B., Lond.

If we follow the history of science we find that there has been a process of fissiparous division. Scattered facts are brought together, classification and generalisation follow; the facts increase and multiply, and as they do so lines of cleavage show themselves. These lines deepen and widen as the facts go on accumulating and as the groups into which they become separated show more and more clearly the need for different lines of inquiry, till one of such groups becomes at last detached, and forms, as far as this is possible, an independent science. There are few sciences in which this process has taken place to a greater extent than in that of medicine, one of whose latest offshoots is the science which I have the honour of introducing to you to-day—viz., pharmacology. In order to show that this, though of relatively recent origin, has not been barren of results, it suffices, while putting aside the names of distinguished pharmacologists of other countries, to mention two only of our own—viz., Frazer and Lauder Brunton.

But what is Pharmacology? The term has been used in a narrow and in a comprehensive sense. I will for the moment employ it in the latter, and provisionally define pharmacology as the science which treats of drugs. What, then, is a drug? A drug is any substance which may be used in the treatment of disease. I am aware that exception may be taken to such a definition, which includes, it may be said, even the knife of the surgeon, but it is difficult to frame one which shall be entirely free from objection. The same difficulty is encountered when we try to describe the difference between foods and medicines or between plants and animals; and, again, it is quite impossible to draw a sharp dividing line between the sciences of chemistry and physics.

In using a substance as a drug what is it which we need to know and which it is the province of pharmacology to teach? I have qualified the statement that pharmacology is an independent science. Few sciences, if any, can stand alone, and certainly not pharmacology. Life is attended by the exercise of function, and health is dependent on the normal performance of this; in other words, disease is ordinarily manifested by a derangement of function, and drugs are given for the purpose of restoring this perverted action to its normal state. The study of the normal functions of the body is therefore essential to the pharmacologist; but this study forms an important branch of physiology, and physiology is the only basis on which pharmacology can surely stand. The same perversion of function, however, may arise from different causes and conditions, hence the necessity for some knowledge of pathology. Function standing thus in intimate relation to physiology, pathology, and pharmacology it is desirable to consider it more closely, especially in connection with one fundamental fact which underlies it. It is not dependent on form or size, for the monad and the largest mammalian are both functionally perfect. It seems not to be inseparably connected with complexity of structure, for the seemingly simple amœba performs the functions of digestion, respiration, and reproduction as efficiently as the more specialised animals of higher type. Of want of structure it behoves one, however, to speak with caution, for the apparently structureless substance of to-day may—thanks to improvement in our instruments and in the method of preparing specimens—be found to-morrow to possess a delicate and complicated organisation. There is one condition, however, which is present in all living things and which, though it has a wider range of action than is represented by the exercise of function, is rarely, if ever, wanting where function occurs, and that is chemical activity. Medicine occupied itself at first with the organs of the body, with diseases of the brain, of the heart, of the lungs, etc. The organs, however, are made up of tissues and these, in their turn, become objects of investigation, but to stop here were obviously to stop midway, for the fibre and the cell are compound objects, and it is in the molecules and atoms constituting these that the real secrets respecting function are contained.

Omitting all consideration of the physical properties and changes of the molecules I propose to refer briefly to a few facts connected with their chemical activity. Most molecules under the usual physical conditions contain two or more atoms and chemical action is generally attended by a splitting of the molecules, the liberated atoms or groups of atoms arranging themselves differently and thus forming new and different molecules. This splitting of the individual molecules takes place because the sum of the forces tending to hold their atoms or groups of atoms together is less than that of the forces acting from without the molecules and in an opposite direction. The discussion of the nature of this force or forces is beyond the scope of the present lecture. It suffices with some substances simply to bring them together under the usual physical conditions for a splitting of their molecules to take place, while with others some help is needed—such as is afforded by heat, light, electricity, &c. Thus the molecules of hydrogen contain (under ordinary conditions of temperature and pressure) two atoms of hydrogen and that of chlorine two atoms of chlorine. If these gases are mixed and kept in the dark and at a moderate temperature they remain for the most part unchanged, but if the mixture is exposed to the sunlight or heated the molecules of each kind of gas are ruptured, the two (H) atoms in each (H) molecule and the two (Cl) atoms in each (Cl) molecule are separated and new molecules are formed, every one of which contains one atom of (Cl) and one of (HCl). What in this case takes place with single atoms may occur also with groups. Thus if, instead of hydrogen and chlorine, we take marsh gas and chlorine we find the methyl group Ch_3 acting just like the single atom of hydrogen, and instead of two molecules of hyrochloric acid we get one of hydrochloric acid and one of chloride of methyl HCH_3 *plus* $Cl_2 = CH_3Cl$ *plus* HCl. In this case, therefore, as before, old molecules split, atoms or groups of atoms change places, and new molecules are formed. Now this process generally, if not always, attends the exercise of function and, as we shall see, the connection is no accidental one. If the chemical changes going on in a resting muscle are estimated, so far as this is possible, at the ordinary temperature of the room and afterwards within certain limits at higher temperatures, they are found to have been increased by the elevation of temperature. If the power of the muscle to respond to stimuli is tested under the same conditions a corresponding rise in this is likewise to be observed as the temperature is raised. The muscle cells like that of an amœba have other functions to perform than that associated with movement, and it is with the heightened exercise of these that the increase of chemical activity referred to is connected. If what is regarded as the special function of the muscle—viz., that of doing mechanical work—is now called into play a fresh impetus is seen to have been given not only to the functional but also to the chemical activity of the part. And what is true of muscles individually is true of them collectively, is true of other organs, probably even of nerves and of the organism at large. A frog may be made by being warmed to exhibit more, and by cooling less, of both chemical and functional activity; indeed, these two processes

seem to proceed *pari passu* within certain limits. The upper limit—that of increased activity—is soon reached. The question of the minimum of function and of chemical action compatible with the continuance of life is a very interesting one, but time forbids me to enter fully into it on the present occasion. In hibernating animals we have a reduction of both functional and chemical action during hibernation. In resting seeds and during the winter sleep of plants the reduction is carried still further, while living substances have been not only frozen but exposed to lower temperatures still without being killed.

When two young and to all appearance healthy animals are fed and treated identically except that to one are given minute doses of arsenic and to the other not, the animal taking the arsenic is found to have a better appetite and to become heavier than the other. Known and well-established facts respecting the Styrian arsenic eaters leave no doubt that this animal feels better than the other. What happens, then, in such a case? When a cell contains molecules which are foreign to it, either through the presence of an element which is not usually there or through a special grouping of its ordinary atoms, that cell is certainly abnormal, and may fairly and reasonably be considered sick; and it is a fortunate accident if it is able to perform its functions with its usual precision and success. It is still more a matter for congratulation if the results of the functional action of such a cell not only equal but surpass those obtained from the normal ones. And yet this appears to have happened in the case of animals which have taken arsenic in the manner I have mentioned. Arsenic is taken up and retained; this can be proved by analysis, and as arsenic is chemically closely allied to nitrogen it has been suggested that in certain molecules arsenic may take the place of some of the nitrogen, and it is conceivable that a proteid molecule containing a small amount of arsenic in place of an equivalent quantity of nitrogen may perform its functions as well as, or even better than, a corresponding proteid molecule constituted in the normal manner. But there is another way in which the arsenic may act in these cases. If larger doses are given the condition of improved health gives place to one in which the reverse obtains. The breaking up of the old and the formation of new molecules now take an abnormal course. Tissues lose their nitrogen and this, instead of yielding urea, which is a diamide, passes out of the body in such forms of combination as leucine and tyrosin which are amido-acids, while the carbon and hydrogen remain combined with oxygen in the form of fat molecules. The cells and fibres of the body are found, in fact, to have undergone fatty degeneration. Fatty degeneration is, however, under certain circumstances at least a natural process; it is the first step of the process by which nature gets rid of the solid exudation products of disease. It is therefore also conceivable that when in the apparently healthy the condition is improved by arsenic certain feeble cells of the organism—and probably the healthiest organism always contains some such—become fattily degenerated and replaced by others which are healthier and more robust.

An important question now presents itself: Are the chemical phenomena occurring in living tissues essentially the same as those which take place in the laboratory? I will not go into the theories of the nature of the difference between dead proteid and living protoplasm. These, ingenious though they may be, lack the one thing needful—viz., the fact of being proven. But there are two facts connected with the subject to which I would wish to draw attention. 1. The synthesis of such bodies as urea and sugar has dispelled, probably once for all, the belief that any products of plants or animals are necessarily incapable of being copied by the chemist. 2. Though it is true that the course of chemical action in living things does not run strictly parallel with that observed in the laboratory, and though life and organisation occur in the former while they are wanting in the latter, it must not be forgotten that there is another factor of supreme importance. It may be safely asserted that in living tissues there are not a few only but many substances which have never yet been isolated; and as the results of any reaction depend, not in some slight degree merely, but mainly and principally on the nature of the reagents present, it must needs be that the chemistry of life will present difficulties which the laboratory for the time being is unable to explain. When, on the other hand, this disturbing factor, the presence of unknown bodies, has been eliminated, as in the future we may hope it will be, it is quite possible that many of the difficulties at present connected with the subject will have explained themselves.

It may fall to the lot of some of you to find yourselves in charge of a case of poisoning in which, having done your best not only to remove the poison from the system by the ordinary methods, but also to combat special symptoms and support the strength of your patient, you find yourselves confronted by the fact that in the desperate struggle between the poison and the organism the latter will, if no further help be given, inevitably succumb before it can eliminate the poison. One hope remains, and that is afforded by removing some of the blood, and with it the poison it contains. Having done this, you must replace the missing blood by other blood, or, by what is perhaps better, and certainly safer, by a weak solution of chloride of sodium. Let us suppose that you have injected a proper quantity of this. What is likely to happen to it? A certain—or rather an uncertain—time after the injection there will have been eliminated from the body a quantity of chlorine and of sodium larger than would otherwise have been excreted by an amount corresponding to the chloride of sodium in the injection. Chloride of sodium being a normal constituent of the body it seems natural to conclude that the (Na) and the (Cl) simply circulated as (NaCl) in the interval. This is, however, by no means necessarily what has taken place. The chlorine and the sodium may each have had a very chequered and independent career—independent, that is, of each other.

The more complicated drugs are naturally not more exempt from change than chloride of sodium, and it may happen that the therapeutic action of a medicine is due neither to the substance which enters nor to that which leaves the body, but to an intermediate product. The subject of the changes undergone by drugs in the body is both interesting and important. Interesting it is to see a substance like sulphonal, which, though resisting the action of some very powerful reagents in the laboratory, is slowly but surely changed by the forces which are at work within us. More interesting still, perhaps, to see how a drug seizes on and fixes some intermediate product of tissue change and thus brings it, perhaps for the first time, under our observation. The cystin-forming group has been thus fixed by the halogen derivatives of benzine, the resulting phenyl-mercapturic acid showing that this group, like uric acid, is formed normally during the ordinary processes of nutrition. Interesting again is it to see one drug reduced and another oxidised during its passage through the system, while a third leaves the body partly in an oxidised and partly in a reduced condition. It is also not without interest that a drug may become for the time being an integral part of the living organism.

What is the kind of knowledge which pharmacology is expected to supply? It should tell us not only the coarser and more obvious changes in function induced by the introduction of a drug into the system, but also in as precise terms and as fully as possible the chemico-molecular phenomena which accompany these changes. I need not say that the chemico-molecular phenomena accompanying normal function are not

fully understood, and I do not wish to imply that even if they were we should know all which it would be well for us to know respecting function. We should still probably be unable to say why contractile tissue contracts or why, coincidently with molecular changes in a particular part of the brain, a thought is struck off.

I pass to a consideration of how knowledge of the kind I have indicated is to be obtained. It is needless to inquire if materia medica either teaches or contributes to increase this form of knowledge. The question carries with it its own negative reply, and it may probably be safely predicted that at a period which, though future is, I hope, not far distant, the greater part of materia medica will be relegated to its natural *habitat*—the domain of the druggist. *A priori* reasoning in the present state of our knowledge also avails nothing. The one, the only, method of inquiry is the experimental. What, then, is an experiment? An experiment consists in altering the conditions connected with a subject and observing the result. What more easy? some may say. But those who speak thus forget the difference between looking at and seeing. An artist looking at an object or a landscape will see much which the untrained eye is sure to overlook, and many physicists must have looked at without observing some of those phenomena, the clear and definite seeing of which has made the name of Faraday for ever famous. It is well if we can at once explain what we see, but the important point is that we do see and that we see truly. A fact is an eternal truth; an inference from a fact may be—sometimes is—altogether false. The literature of science teems with hypotheses, some of which, though masterpieces of ingenious theorising, possess one fatal fault, that of having been falsified by subsequent experience. Not that hypotheses are valueless—they serve various purposes, including that of suggesting new lines of work which, even when, as is sometimes the case, they disprove the theory to which they owed their origin, may lead to results of lasting value. The therapeutic use of chloral hydrate is connected with a perfectly reasonable but quite erroneous hypothesis—the belief that the chloral hydrate was decomposed by the alkaline fluids of the body as it is decomposed by alkalies in the laboratory, yielding chloroform. Chloral yields no chloroform in passing through the body, but it is none the less a potent and valuable medicine.

It will be evident from what I have said respecting the nature of an experiment that every prescription carried out is, thanks to the multiplicity and varying nature of the factors involved, necessarily an experiment. Bearing in mind the enormous number of prescriptions written daily by medical men throughout the world, and not forgetting the great and special difficulties connected with this particular form of work, I would still venture to ask, Is the harvest reaped by pharmacology in this field as abundant as might reasonably be hoped for? Though it is true that no inconsiderable part of existing pharmacological knowledge has been acquired by the mode of experimenting to which I have alluded, we are compelled to ask, Does this method, unaided and alone, suffice to protect those who entrust not only health but life to our care? In connection with this subject I will direct your attention for a moment to what is perhaps one of the saddest pages in the history of medicine. Till the researches of Pasteur had indicated the line along which light was to be sought no outlook was more dark, no prospect more dreary than that presented by diphtheria. The helpless physician used this remedy and that, and amongst others he tried chlorate of potassium. It seemed to be of service; at any rate, there were *a priori* grounds on which it might be expected to be useful. It was used extensively, it was used for years. In the course of time, however, and almost at the same period that an American physician sounded a note of warning, a German prosector noticed in the bodies of those who died while taking it appearances which suggested to his mind the fearful question: Can this fancied remedy be helping the disease to kill? It was a question which could be answered only by further experiments on animals. They answered it, and with an almost brutal clearness showed that the lethal dose of a poison had been given. They showed that the physician had pointed the shaft of the disease, nay, more, that he had himself forged a weapon with an edge more keen than that of even diphtheria itself. This happened in 1879. How many victims chlorate of potassium had claimed till then, and how many more homes might have been darkened between then and now but for those experiments on animals it is vain to guess. The episode is past and though painful is instructive, and I think we may not only patiently but even confidently await the time when those who are now against us on the subject of experiments on animals will, with fuller knowledge and not less humanity, reverse their present unfavourable judgment, remembering that yielding to the instinct of pity, though more easy, is not always better, wiser, or holier than resistance to it.

Another method by which pharmacological knowledge is to be obtained is that which is generally understood as research. This, I think, is an ideal form of work, and the leisure and acquirements needed for it are, in my opinion, well worth striving after. A laboratory, it is true, may not be an attractive object. It is not usually gratifying to the æsthetic sense; there are apt to be too many and too obvious manifestations of matter apparently in the wrong place, but it possesses, or at least should possess, one of the fundamental attributes of beauty—viz., a fitness for the purpose it is intended to subserve; and if in itself not beautiful it enshrines what is *par excellence* "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." It enshrines, it is pervaded by, the spirit of truth—truth which serves both as a lamp to illumine and as a beacon to direct, and yet which shines with a pure and steady ray on those alone who seek to follow it in singleness of purpose. Each fact discovered in the pursuit of knowledge, discovered it matters not by whom or when, and even when unimportant in itself, may prove a stepping stone by which that knowledge mounts to other and far higher things. This is the worker's real recompense; it is this pregnant possibility which makes work, honest work, like virtue, its own great reward.

But to proceed, some of you may be inclined to ask how, if what I have said respecting the relation of drugs to the organism and of the organism to drugs be true, there can possibly be different systems of administering medicines. By whatever name you call your method of giving drugs you must be guided in the act by one of two principles, the rational or the empirical; and the difference between these is soon illustrated. Suppose that to a weak anæmic patient with relaxed arteries, unable to sleep because when he lies down the blood pours too freely through the dilated vessels to the brain, you give digitalis and iron, you will probably brace up the arteries and by removing the condition on which the insomnia depended you will succeed in inducing sleep. You will then have acted rationally. But if in such a case you simply give a hypnotic, chloral hydrate, morphine or some other, you will procure sleep it is true; your patient may be satisfied—nay, even thankful—and perhaps so satisfied that he may repeat the dose, and this not once only, but many times, until he has at last acquired the narcotic habit. I need not tell you that in this case the prescription will have been both empirical and wrong. It is possible, however, that a prescription may be at the same time empirical and right, for so long as the mode of action of a drug is not understood, the drug, if given at all, must be administered empirically. Quinine, e.g., was given advantageously in malarial disease long before either its power of checking proto-

plasmic movement was understood and even before the protoplasmic parasite of the blood corpuscles in ague had been discovered. Facts such as these, however, afford no excuse for sinning against light, but should, on the contrary, stimulate us to contribute something to the increase of the knowledge which, in proportion as we gain it tends to raise us from the level of the charlatan to the plane of the philosopher.—*The Lancet.*

PARLIAMENTARY.

Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill.

In the House of Commons,

The House went into Committee on the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, Mr. J W. Lowther in the chair.

On Clause 3 (registered chemists and druggists eligible to be elected "members"),

Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.), who had given notice of two amendments, said his object was to prevent the present educational tests applied by the Pharmaceutical Society to those students who wished to rank as members of the society from being lowered. At present there were two tests applied—one examination which qualified for membership, and another which qualified for associateship. The object of the Bill was to enable those who were now associates to become members without passing the higher test. He was aware that during the lapse of years the lower test had been made almost as stringent as the higher test used to be, and a good deal of his objection to this particular clause was removed by that consideration. If, therefore, he could receive from the hon. member in charge of the Bill an assurance that the society would, in view of a subsequent Bill, take into consideration the idea of constituting those who were now members fellows, so as to preserve the relative proportion between the present members and the present associates in that case as between fellows and members, he would be quite willing to withdraw his amendments.

Mr. Brookfield (Sussex, Rye) said he did not like to pledge the society, but he would recommend them to adopt the suggestion of the hon. member, and he did not believe there would be any opposition.

Mr. Yoxall said in that case he would not move his amendments.

The clause was agreed to, as were the remaining clauses of the Bill.

On the question that the Bill be reported without amendment to the House,

Dr. Clark (Caithness) said he desired to ask the Government and those in charge of the Bill what position they took up in regard to the proposed new clause as to exemptions which his hon. friend the member for the Camlachie Division of Glasgow had put on the paper. His hon. friend, as a wholesale seed merchant, was in the habit of selling to farmers and cattle dealers certain antiseptic solutions for the purpose of killing vermin. Some of these solutions contained scheduled poisons, but they were mixed with other things which prevented them from being used for the poisoning of human beings. His hon. friend and those who were engaged in the same class of business were in the habit of sending out these poisons in wholesale quantities, but they now found that the Pharmaceutical Society had used their powers to prevent them from selling these poisons for commercial and agricultural purposes. He understood that the Government had promised to bring in a Bill to amend the Pharmacy Act in order, among other things, to enable seedsmen and those engaged in similar businesses to sell poisons for agricultural purposes. To put himself in order, he would move that the clause be read a second time.

Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.) said he did not think it mattered for what purposes poisons were going to be used. What they were trying to do was to stop their unrestricted sale. Very dangerous poisons indeed were sold for agricultural purposes, and if these goods were to be sold by the class of people referred to by his hon. friend the member for Caithness without let or hindrance, a very difficult and dangerous question would be raised. The present Bill, however, only dealt with the internal government of the society, and not with the question of the sale of poisons, and in these circumstances he thought his hon. friend would be well advised in not pressing the new clause.

Mr. Brookfield thought the Committee would agree that so serious a proposal as was contained in the new clause should not be tacked on to the end of what was practically a private Bill for the better government and constitution of a perfectly harmless and respectable corporation. He could not accept the proposal of the hon. member for Caithness, and he hoped he would see his way to withdraw it.

Mr. Burns (Battersea) said the present regulations for the sale of poisons were most unsatisfactory, and the Pharmaceutical Society should not rest content with merely having taken steps to improve the *status* of their future students and members. They had a greater duty to the public, and they should, either with the Government or through the hon. member in charge of the present Bill, seek to put their regulations on such a footing that, while those engaged in supplying sheep dip, marine scaling composition, and agricultural manures were not handicapped in their business, the facilities with which poisons were obtained by the public should be greatly restricted. He suggested to the hon. member in charge of the Bill that he should recommend the Pharmaceutical Society to read into the Bill the various suggestions made for future restrictions of the sale of poisons generally, and that, when the Bill passed, the society should use it with greater courage and discretion than other Acts had been used by the society. He approved of the objects of the Bill, but he trusted that the Government, who ought to be responsible, would take a hint from the discussion and bring in a measure to put the whole sale of poisons on a satisfactory basis.

Dr. Clark withdrew his amendment, hoping that the effect of the discussion would be to direct the attention of the Government to the unsatisfactory state of the law in respect to the sale of poisons.

The schedule was agreed to, and the Bill was reported to the House without amendment.

Mr. Brookfield, in moving that the Bill be read a third time, said he would communicate to the Pharmaceutical Society the wishes of members that strict attention should be given to restrictions on the sale of poisons.

The Bill was then read a third time.

Corporation of London (Foreign Cattle Market Deptford) Bill.

In the House of Lords on Saturday, June 11th.

This Bill having been read a third time, on the motion that the Bill do pass,

Lord Stanley of Alderley moved a long amendment calling upon the Corporation of London to consent to the Millwall Dock Company and the Agricultural Organising Agency (Limited) providing accommodation for the landing and lairage of live stock from Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom, and for the establishment of a market for their sale, and to find accommodation for the latter company in the Central Meat Market.

The EARL of MORLEY said he was quite certain the House would not entertain the amendment. The Bill had passed through all its stages in both Houses, and now at the last moment an amendment was introduced which was absolutely foreign to the Bill. The Bill was introduced by the Corporation for the purpose of enabling them to enlarge the Foreign Cattle Market at Deptford, and the amendment proposed that certain private companies should have the right to accommodation there. It would be most unfair to the promoters to introduce the amendment at this stage.

The EARL of MAYO said that no market could be established within seven miles round London without the consent of the Corporation, and the object of the amend ment was to get over that. He hoped, however, the noble lord would withdraw the amendment and that a Bill dealing with the matter would be brought in.

After a few remarks from EARL FORTESCUE,

The amendment was withdrawn and the Bill passed.

Paris Exhibition of 1900.

The Royal Commission are now prepared to circulate information respecting the Exhibition. The classification and rules for Exhibitors, together with forms of application for space, can be obtained by applying to the Secretary of the Royal Commission, Paris Exhibition 1900, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.

The Muzzling and Importation of Dogs.

During May, according to the latest returns 2808, stray dogs were seized by the police, under the Muzzling Order in London and the adjoining administrative counties and boroughs. Of those captured in the metropolis 1,698 were removed to the Dog's Home at Battersea, and a large number were restored to the owners. Tuesday's "Gazette" announces that from the 18th inst. the provisions of the Importation of Dogs Order shall not extend or apply to dogs brought to Great Britain from the Channel Islands.

A Veterinary Inspector for Carlisle.

At the monthly meeting of the Carlisle Town Council on the 14th inst., Mr. Wheatley moved the appointment of Mr. Robert Craig Robinson, V.S., an inspector of dairy cattle within the city at a salary of £100 a year. The appointment was recommended by the Health Committee and deferred, on the motion of Mr. Ferguson at the last meeting, until the present one. He explained the duties which Mr. Robinson would have to perform in connection with the testing of dairy cattle to ascertain if they were affected with tuberculosis, and expressed the hope that the Council would agree to the appointment in the interests of the community at large. The Mayor seconded the motion, and after a brief discussion, in which Mr. Phillips and Mr. Maxwell took part, the motion was carried.

ARMY VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Extracts from *London Gazette*:

WAR OFFICE, June 14.

Vet.-Captain J. W. A. Morgan is promoted Vet.-Major.

Vet.-Lieut. G. H. Elder, West Somerset Yeomanry cavalry is promoted Vet.-Captain.

Vet.-Lieut. A. A. Macfarlane, 1st Renfrew and Dumbarton Yeomanry Cavalry, resigns his Commission.

Vet.-Lieut.-Colonel J. Matthews embarked for South Africa, 4th instant.

Vet.-Lieut. H. P. Turnbull joined at Canterbury for duty with 10th Hussars, 2nd instant.

We regret to announce the death of Vet.-Lieut. H. C. Harris, which took place at Jhansi, Bengal, on 8th instant.

Inspecting Vet.-Surgeon A. J. Owles was present at the Siege of Delhi Commemoration Dinner at the Hotel Cecil on the 6th inst.

Vet.-Major F. F. Crawford has been granted leave from India to England for six months on medical certificate.

Vet.-Captain H. T. Pease has arrived from India.

There has been much disease and mortality lately amongst horses in the mounted service in South Africa, and the cause is not altogether to be accounted for, as Lieut.-General Sir William Goodenough and his staff have adopted all means in their power to prevent the spread of disease. The War Office, recognising the difficulties under which the military authorities at the Cape are labouring, have decided to send out a specialist to conduct a thorough investigation on the spot and ascertain if possible the actual cause of mischief. For this service they have selected Veterinary-Lieut.-Colonel I Matthews, A.V.D., who has been employed on many such special missions, and he has already left England for Cape Town with instructions to visit every military station occupied by cavalry and artillery and see for himself what the local peculiarities are as regards food and water, &c.—*The Army & Navy Gazette.*

Three veterinary officers from cavalry regiments have been selected to assist in making purchases of horses in South America for the use of our troops in South Africa. Some 1,200 horses are to be bought and conveyed direct from the market to the Cape of Good Hope, Veterinary Captains Day (12th Lancers) and Raymond (8th Hussars) and Veterinary Lieutenant Moore (3rd Dragoon Guards) having been told off to take charge of the horses on the voyage. It is not long since a similar large purchase of horses for South Africa was made, and the authorities were so thoroughly satisfied that they have gone again to the same market.

OBITUARY.

LIEUT. H. COGAN HARRIS, M.R.C.V.S., A.V.D.
Graduated, Edin., Dec., 1890.

Lieut. Harris died at Jhansi, Bengal, on the 8th inst.

THOMAS ROBERT WILLIAMS, M.R.C.V.S., Caerwys,
Graduated, Lond., March, 1875.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. T. R. Williams, veterinary surgeon, which occurred rather suddenly on Saturday evening, May 28th. The deceased gentleman had been complaining for a long time, but no one suspected that his ailment was of such a nature as to take him away with such a short warning. We understand that he contracted a cold some day last week, the effects of which brought about a complication from which he died so unexpectedly. He had been practising at Caerwys for over 20 years, was very widely known and universally respected. He was in the prime of life, being only 44 years of age. His remains were interred in the family vault in Caerwys Churchyard on Thursday afternoon.—*The Free Press*, June 4th.

CORRESPONDENCE

VETERINARY RESIDENTS ABROAD.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly grant me a small space in your paper to indulge in a grumble on behalf of veterinary surgeons living abroad. The Council of the R.C.V.S. has ordained that foreign voting papers be issued in good time so that they may be filled in and be returned before a certain date, fixed usually about a week before the annual general meeting. So far, so good. Unfortunately they make this indulgence practically void by the lack of information supplied with the voting paper. The paper I received this year contains nothing but the date of the annual meeting and the number of members to be elected and the instructions for voting. What is the good of such a paper to me or to anyone else abroad. I found myself, at the time of posting for the last mail that would reach in time, absolutely ignorant as to what members were retiring by rotation, who wished re-election, or what new candidates there were. I looked at each *Veterinary Record* for some information in vain, not a note on the subject, not an election address appeared until your issue of April 30th, which reached me on the 16th May; then, needless to say, it was too late.

Now, Sir, is it too much to ask that when the voting papers are sent out there may be some information on them as to who are the retiring members, and which of them (if any) do not seek re-election. This, perhaps, is all the information we can ask to have put on the voting papers, but I should like to suggest to candidates that there are about 100 members of the profession in India, not to mention those in the Colonies, and it might be just as well to remember us poor exiles. An address or notification of their intention to stand inserted in *The Veterinary Record* up to or about the 9th or 10th of April would reach us in time for us to vote.

If there is anything in the bye-laws which prevents the insertion of the names of retiring members on the voting papers perhaps another year you, sir, might remember us, and give us the information in your paper.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

E. E. Martin, A.V.D.

DOCKING.

Dear Sir,

After pursuing a certain policy for about fifty years a great living statesman has had to confess that we have been "backing the wrong horse." May not the veterinary profession be doing the same thing by advocating *indiscriminate* docking?

The same conservatism would, on a plebiscite, have obtained for nicking and cropping, a majority of adherents fifty years ago, and those humane men who objected to mutilation on the mere ground of *fashion* were despised as we are now who dare to have an opinion contrary to the majority.

How many horses are really docked because it is found necessary, and how many *as colts* before they have proved the need? Are we honest in our objection to control in this matter? Is it not a fact that we are angry with any corporate body or society that either intervenes between us and our clients, or hinders the gathering in of, what we consider, just fees?

Would it not be far better for us if the R.S.P.C.A. *did* get a conviction upheld in the High Court for an operation *needlessly* performed, than that we should be in constant fear of getting wrong with the law over a matter, which, if we could really regard it dispassionately, we should be troubled to convince ourselves of our own righteousness? I cannot read even your very clever article on the subject—and you are a special pleader of no mean order—without seeing that you have a weak case and you know it. You are doubtless voicing the opinion of the majority, and therefore hold a safe seat instead of incurring the abuse which your present correspondent has had to suffer, being "wounded in the house of his friends."

There is nothing new to be said about docking, we know that for some horses to wear a long dock is to endanger the lives of persons driving them. I have had such horses myself, docked them, driven them in safety afterwards, and should do so again in the presence of an officer of the R.S.P.C.A. who in this matter seek only to do away with *mutilation for fashion's sake* and not to put an embargo on a legitimate operation. If this had not been the aim of the Society it would not have asked Professor Pritchard and myself, who were willing to confess that we had docked many horses, to give evidence at Halifax. I told Mr. Colam I considered there were many cases in which docking was justifiable, and stated the same thing in my evidence, which was of course distorted by counsel for the defendant, whose misrepresentation of my words was copied into *The Veterinary Record* to the damnation of my reputation among veterinary friends. However, that does not matter, it is merely a personal aspect of the question for which I beg pardon for having introduced. The non-dockers will come out right in the end, and the best interests of the profession be served by those who, accepting contumely for the time, "back the right horse"—the one with the long tail, when no just reason exists for shortening it.—I am, Yours, etc.

Harold Leeney, M.R.C.V.S.

Dear Sir,

I have intended for some time to write you respecting the late docking case that came before the magistrates here under prosecution by the R.S.P.C.A., in which the latter were defeated. My object now is to say that I have a small fund left over from voluntary contributions towards the cost of trial, amounting to £36.

Noticing from your leading article in *The Veterinary Record* on docking, and also a reproduced placard by Mr. Colam threatening dire pains, penalties, and imprisonment to any poor veterinary surgeon found docking from any other cause than diseased tails, and that all cases would be vigorously pursued by the Society. I have now further to say that I shall be glad to fall in with any suggestion that the National Veterinary Society may make to pay over the sum named in my hands towards the formation of a special fund to be applied to the defence of any case that Mr. Colam may have the temerity to tackle.

I have no doubt that ample funds would be forthcoming both from the profession and outsiders, indeed had necessity required Mr. Sam Mitchell, of Bradford, told me he would have no difficulty in raising a few hundred pounds amongst the Hackney breeders.

With reference to your remarks in the leader referred to, that the Halifax case was hardly one to take to a higher court, I can believe that the R.S.P.C.A. did not think it suitable for appeal, an opinion they will not alter in any future case organised as the Halifax case was. The fact is the Society had not a leg to stand on; it was eminently a typical case, which they would not have given up had they felt the least chance of success.

I shall gladly give my mite towards augmenting the fund.—Yours faithfully,

Parlane M. Walker.

Communications, Books, and Papers received:—Lieut. E. E. Martin, Messrs. Jno. A. Dollar, D. Young, H. Leeney, F. C. Mahon, A. L. Farrant, E. W. Hoare, P. M. Walker, R. Barron. *The Free Press* (Denbigh).